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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/770,148	01/26/2001	Gary Douglas Huber	M-9876US	7341
27683	7590	03/09/2006	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			MARTINEZ, DAVID E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2181	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/770,148	HUBER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David E. Martinez	2181	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 October 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

Newly submitted claim 18 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claim 18 is directed to a switch that selects one of a PC system and a PDA system, wherein the selected one of the PC or PDA system controls: a common display; and a serial input/output controller. The claim is separate and distinct from the originally presented claims which do not set forth these elements.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 18 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regards to claims 1 lines 7-9, and claim 17 lines 5-7, the term “whereby the PDA system is coupled with the PC system to receive power, input and display;” render both claims indefinite. It is not clear what is meant *to receive display*. Is the PDA receiving display data as in a video file that can be displayed on the PDA from the PC? Is it display data as in when taking control over of the PC and using the PDA to view the PC desktop? Or does it mean that the PDA system is using the display of the PC system itself once it is connected to the PC instead of its own display?

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With regards to claims 2-15, due to their dependency to claim 1, they suffer from the same deficiencies as their parent claim 1, and thus are rejected under the same rationale.

Due to the vagueness and a lack of clear definiteness in the claims, the claims have been treated on their merits as best understood by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of US Patent No. 6,493,782 to Verdun et al. (Verdun).

1. With regards to claims 1 and 17, AAPA teaches a mobile computing system comprising of:

a personal computer (PC) system [fig 1];

a personal digital assistant (PDA) system [fig 2] that interfaces to the PC system [page 3 lines 13-20];

a PC chassis housing the PC system [fig 1, element 100, page 2 lines 10-21, page 3, lines 21-24];

a PDA chassis housing the PDA system [fig 2];

the PDA chassis being mounted in the PC chassis [page 3, lines 21-24] whereby the PDA system is coupled with the PC system to receive power, input and display [page 3 lines 13-20];

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AAPA teaches all of the above limitations, but is silent as to the PDA chassis being removed from the PC chassis at any time including the PC system and the PDA system being in an off, on or running mode, whereby the PDA system operates independently of the PC system including power, input and display.

However, Verdun teaches a portable computer (PDA chassis) that is mounted to its expansion unit (PC chassis), the PDA chassis being able to be removed from its PC chassis at any time including, the PDA and the PC chassis being in an off, on or running mode [fig 4, column 27 line 39 to column 28 line 5], whereby the PDA operates independently of the PC system including power, input and display [column 2 lines 38-57 and line 66 to column 3 line 5] for the benefit of being able to connect and disconnect the portable computer in all power state configurations.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of AAPA, and Verdun to have the PDA chassis be able to be removed from the PC chassis at any time including, the PDA and the PC chassis being in an off, on or running mode, whereby the PDA operates independently of the PC system including power, input and display for the benefit of being able to connect and disconnect the PDA in all power state configurations.

2. With regards to claim 2, AAPA teaches the mobile computing system of claim 1 wherein the PDA system is further comprised of:

an input device [fig 2, elements 205, 210, page 3 lines 3-12].

3. With regards to claim 3, AAPA teaches the mobile computing system of claim 2 further comprising: an antenna for wireless communications [fig 2, element 215, page 3 lines 3-12].

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4. With regards to claims 4, 5, and 6, AAPA teaches wherein the PC chassis further comprises one or more expansion bays [fig 1, elements 110, 115], wherein the PDA chassis is placed in one of the bays [page 2 lines 16-21, page 3, lines 13-22].

5. With regards to claims 7, 8, and 9, AAPA teaches wherein the PDA chassis is placed in the interior of the PC chassis [fig 1, elements 110, 115, page 2 lines 16-21, page 3, lines 13-22].

6. With further regards to claim 17, AAPA teaches a method of integrating a removable PDA system [fig 2] with a PC system [fig 1] comprised of:

connecting the PDA system to the PC system by a separable interface [page 3 lines 3-24];

isolating control to either PDA system or PC system when instructed by a user or a predetermined system logic [page 3, lines 13-22].

Claims 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of US Patent No. 6,493,782 to Verdun et al. (Verdun). as applied to claims 1-3 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,768,163 to Smith, II (Smith).

7. With regards to claims 10-15, the combination of AAPA and Verdun fail to teach wherein the PDA chassis is placed on the exterior of the PC chassis, and on the top of the PC chassis.

However, Smith teaches the use of a connector for connecting a PDA with a PC chassis [figs 1-7, 10, column 1 line 40 to column 2 line 34] for the benefit increasing the ease of sharing of information between devices.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of AAPA, Verdun, and Smith to provide the PDA chassis is able to be placed on both the exterior and on top of the PC chassis for the benefit of increasing the ease of sharing of information between devices.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 12/20/05 with respect to claims 1-15 and 17, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues "Verdun does not teach or suggest the portable computer and expansion chassis continue to operate independently including power input and display when the portable computer and the expansion chassis are undocked". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant's cited text in column 6 is directed to a controller and not the expansion base unit itself (PC Chassis). The cited text in column 8 discloses the powering down of expansion base devices (peripheral devices), and not the expansion base unit itself (PC chassis). Verdun teaches that the portable computer and expansion chassis continue to operate independently including power input and display when the portable computer and the expansion chassis are undocked in fig 4 and column 27 line 39 to column 28 line 5. Nowhere does it say that the expansion base unit itself (PC Chassis) shuts down after the undocking of the portable computer (PDA device).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Martinez whose telephone number is (571) 272-4152. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DEM



KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
3/2/06